

Life Satisfaction

Age Cohorts	Younger, Mid-age, Older
Surveys	All Surveys for Younger, Mid, Survey 1 for Older
Derived Variables:	lfstfy
Definition	Life Satisfaction
Statistical Form	Continuous variable
Index Number:	SATS-010
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Endorsed	

Background

This variable is an ALSWH variable.

Life Satisfaction

The ALSWH produces a derived variable Life Satisfaction, denoted as lfstfy in the data. This derived variable is a WHA construct. It was produced for the three cohorts at wave 1. From wave 2 onwards this variable has been produced only for the 1973-78 cohort and the 1946-51 cohort. The variable is continuous with higher scores representing higher satisfaction.

Note on historical error:

The Life Satisfaction scores for the 3rd, 4th, and 5th surveys of the 1946-51 cohort had been calculated incorrectly. They were corrected in May 2010. The problem was that the raw data was not reversed before the average satisfaction score was calculated. This was first done in the Mid 3 survey and was continued on for Mid 4 and Mid 5. The raw data have the value 1 for 'very satisfied' and continues on to 4 for 'very dissatisfied'. These scores have to be reversed before the averaging is done to get the score in the right direction. (See Derivation)

Source items

	Wave 1	Wave 2 onwards	In general, are you satisfied with what you have achieved in your life so far in the areas of:
SATS01	a		Work/career/study
SATS02	b	d	Family relationships
SATS03		e	Partner/closest personal relationship
SATS04	d	f	Friendships
SATS05	e	g	Social activities
SATS07		a	Work
SATS08		b	Career
SATS09		c	Study
SATS11		g	Motherhood/children (Young only)

SATS10			Lfstfy
SATS06	c		Spouse/closest personal relationship (OLD 1)

Code	Response
1	<i>Very satisfied</i>
2	<i>Satisfied</i>
3	<i>Dissatisfied</i>
4	<i>Very dissatisfied</i>

The codes are reversed for the derivation of the life satisfaction variable, lfstfy.

Derivation

The scores are reversed by subtracting the code from 5. Then the Life satisfaction score is an average of this score when there are enough non-missing values.

WAVE 1

There are 5 scores. Each is transformed to reverse the order from 1 to 4. If there are at least 3 non-missing values then the derived variable can be calculated as the average of the non-missing transformed scores.

SAS Code (this example is from Young 1)

```

/*****
**
**   life satisfaction array (lfstfy)   **
**                                     **
** 5 is number of satisfaction questions **
**                                     **
** 3 is valid number of answers for    **
**   score to be calculated            **
**                                     **
*****/

array ostsfy(5) y1q94a y1q94b y1q94c y1q94d y1q94e ;
array stsfy(5)  nq94a  nq94b  nq94c  nq94d  nq94e ;
do j=1 to 5 ;
    stsfy(j)=ostsfy(j) ;
end ;

do h=1 to 5 ;
    if stsfy(h)=1 then stsfy(h)=4 ;
    else if stsfy(h)=2 then stsfy(h)=3 ;
    else if stsfy(h)=3 then stsfy(h)=2 ;
    else if stsfy(h)=4 then stsfy(h)=1 ;
    else stsfy(h)=. ;
end ;

nstsfy  =  n(stsfy(1), stsfy(2), stsfy(3), stsfy(4), stsfy(5)) ;
if (3<=nstsfy<=5) then lfstfy = mean(stsfy(1), stsfy(2), stsfy(3), stsfy(4),
stsfy(5)) ;
else lfstfy=. ;

```

```
y11fstfy = 1fstfy ;
```

For each survey after wave 1 the following method is used.

WAVE 2 ONWARDS

1946-51 Survey (MID 2 onwards)

There are 7 scores. If at least 4 of them are non-missing then take the average of the reversed non-missing scores.

1973-78 Survey (Young 2 onwards)

There are 8 scores. If at least 4 of them are non-missing then take the average of the reversed non-missing scores. If the 'Motherhood/Children' item is zero (Not Applicable) then replace this with the average of the other non-missing items a – g.

SAS code Mid 2 onwards

```
/******  
** life satisfaction **  
*****/  
  
numstf=7 ;  
valstf=4 ;  
  
array  ostsfy(7)  m2q90a  m2q90b  m2q90c  m2q90d  m2q90e  m2q90f  
m2q90g  ;  
array  stsfy(7)  nq90a  nq90b  nq90c  nq90d  nq90e  nq90f  
nq90g  ;  
do c=1 to 7 ;  
    stsfy(c)=ostsfy(c) ;  
end ;  
  
drop a c ;  
  
/******  
**                               **  
**  life satisfaction array (p21fstfy) **  
**                               **  
**  numstf is number of questions      **  
**                               - 8 Yng      **  
**                               - 7 Mid      **  
**                               - 0 Old      **  
**                               **  
**  valstf - number of nonmissing answers **  
**  for a valid score to be calculated  **  
**                               - 4 Yng      **  
**                               - 4 Mid      **  
**                               - 0 Old      **  
**                               **  
**  Scores are reversed so that high    **  
**  is a better score than low.        **  
**                               **  
*****/  
  
sumstfy=0 ;  
nstfy=0 ;
```

```

do h=1 to numstf ;
    if stsfy(h)=1 then stsfy(h)=4 ;
    else if stsfy(h)=2 then stsfy(h)=3 ;
    else if stsfy(h)=3 then stsfy(h)=2 ;
    else if stsfy(h)=4 then stsfy(h)=1 ;
    else stsfy(h)=. ;

    if stsfy(h) ne . then do ;
        nstfy = nstfy + 1 ;
        sumstfy = sumstfy + stsfy(h) ;
    end ;

end ;

if (valstf<=nstfy<=numstf) then p2lfstfy = sumstfy/nstfy ;
else p2lfstfy = . ;

m2lfstfy = p2lfstfy ;

```

SAS Code (Young 2 onwards)

```

/*****
**
**   life satisfaction
**
**   *****/

valstf = 4 ;
numstf = 8 ;

/** adjust for q106h not applicable using mean of other 7 responses */
if y2q106h=0 then
newq106h=mean(y2q106a,y2q106b,y2q106c,y2q106d,y2q106e,y2q106f,y2q106g) ;

array ostsfy(8)  y2q106a y2q106b y2q106c y2q106d y2q106e y2q106f y2q106g
newq106h ;

/*****
**
**   life satisfaction array (p2lfstfy)
**
**   numstf is number of questions
**   - 8 Yng
**   - 7 Mid
**   - 0 Old
**
**   valstf - number of nonmissing answers
**   for a valid score to be calculated
**   - 4 Yng
**   - 4 Mid
**   - 0 Old
**
**   Scores are reversed so that high
**   is a better score than low.
**
**   *****/

```

```

sumstfy=0 ;
nstfy=0 ;

do h=1 to numstf ;
    if stsfy(h)=1 then stsfy(h)=4 ;
    else if stsfy(h)=2 then stsfy(h)=3 ;
    else if stsfy(h)=3 then stsfy(h)=2 ;
    else if stsfy(h)=4 then stsfy(h)=1 ;
    else stsfy(h)=. ;

    if stsfy(h) ne . then do ;
        nstfy = nstfy + 1 ;
        sumstfy = sumstfy + stsfy(h) ;
    end ;

end ;

if (valstf<=nstfy<=numstf) then p2lfstfy = sumstfy/nstfy ;
else p2lfstfy = . ;

y2lfstfy = p2lfstfy ;

```